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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/550,764	09/27/2005	Alexander Dardin	278069US0PCT	1825
22850	7590	05/13/2009		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
VASISTH, VISHAL V				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1797				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/13/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/550,764

Applicant(s)

DARDIN ET AL.

Examiner

VISHAL VASISTH

Art Unit

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/30/2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' amendment of 1/30/2009 overcame the objections to the specification and claim 9 and the rejections under 35 USC 103 via amendment to claim 1 set forth in the office action mailed 9/4/2008. The amendment to the claims and the specification do not, however, overcome the objection to claim 1 and rejection under 35 USC 112 rejection set forth in office action mailed 9/4/2008. However, in light of the amendment to the specification, the 35 USC 112 rejection from the office action mailed 9/4/2008 is withdrawn and a new claim objection is incorporated, see discussion below. Claims 1-9 and 12-16 were amended to incorporate language consistent with common US patent law practice. New grounds of rejection necessitated by the amendment are set forth below.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: both formulas (I) and (II) describe ethylenically unsaturated ester compounds as per pages 12 and 13 of the instant specification, but neither formula contains a carbon-carbon double bond. The examiner is of the position that between carbons 2 and 3 there should be double bonds in both formulas.

Also, in formula (III) of claim 1 there should be bonds between the molecular groups connecting for example the carbonyl group to the carbon chain above it, as was presented in the amendment to the specification filed on 1/30/2009. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

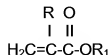
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

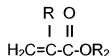
5. Claims 1-9, 13-14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mishra et al. US Patent No. 5,834,408 (hereinafter referred to as Mishra).

Mishra discloses a lubricating oil composition for use in gear oil, hydraulic fluids and motor oils (as recited in claim 17) (Col. 4/L. 55-65) comprising lube oil basestock (a base oil as recited in claim 1) (Col. 5/L. 29-32) and a copolymer additive comprising an acrylic monomer (a) of the formula:



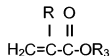
wherein R is hydrogen or methyl, and R₁ is an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms (within the range of carbons as recited in formula (I) of claim 1) (Col. 2/L. 25-30).

Mishra further discloses polymerization of the above monomer with an acrylic monomer (b) of the formula:



wherein R is hydrogen or methyl, and R₂ is an alkyl group having from 6 to 14 carbon atoms such as 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate (within the range of carbons as recited in formula (II) of claim 1) (Col. 2/L. 35-40 and Col. 2/L. 63-65).

Mishra also discloses polymerization of the above monomers with an acrylic monomer (c) of the formula:



wherein R is hydrogen or methyl, and R₃ is an alkyl group having from 15 to 22 carbon atoms (within the range of carbons as recited in formula (II) of claim 1) (Col. 2/L. 45-50). The process of Mishra in polymerizing the above mentioned monomers allows for a wide range of copolymers including block copolymers (as recited in claims 1 and 8-9) (Col. 4/L. 9-16 and Col. 4/L. 31-37).

Mishra further discloses monomers that provide further improvements to the performance of the copolymer properties such as dispersancy, antioxidancy and antiwear may also be included in the copolymers of the present invention. Typical performance enhancing monomers of this class include N,N-dimethylamino propyl

methacrylamide and N,N-diethylamino propyl methacrylamide (read on formula (III) and claims 2-7) (Col. 3/L. 27-39). The block copolymer of Pappas, can be used in lubricating oils in amounts from about 0.001 to 1 wt% based on the total weight of the oil (within the range as recited in claim 14) (Col. 5/L. 6-12).

Mishra also discloses additional additives to formulate the finished composition including viscosity index improvers, antioxidants and corrosion inhibitors (as recited in claim 13) (Col. 4-5/L. 66-5).

Mishra does not explicitly disclose a concentration of acrylic monomers within the claimed range.

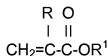
However, Mishra discloses monomer (a) has a concentration ranging from 0 to 60 wt% (overlaps the range as recited in claim 1) (Col. 2/L. 26-27), monomer (b) has a concentration ranging from 0 to 60 wt% (overlaps the range as recited in claim 1) (Col. 2/L. 34-35) and monomer (c) has a concentration ranging from 15 to 80 wt% (overlaps the range as recited in claim 1) (Col. 2/L. 43-44). The ranges of Mishra therefore overlap and encompass the claimed ranges. See MPEP 2144.05(I): "In the case where the claimed ranges "overlap or lie inside ranges disclosed by the prior art" a prima facie case of obviousness exists. *In re Wertheim*, 541 F.2d 257, 191 USPQ 90 (CCPA 1976)."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mishra in view of Pappas et al., US Patent No. 3,816,314 (hereinafter referred to as Pappas).

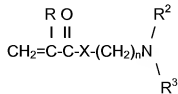
Mishra discloses monomer with hydrophobic segments and monomers with polar segments. Mishra does not, however, disclose a concentration range for the monomers with polar segments and therefore Mishra does not disclose a weight ratio between the two segments. Mishra also does not explicitly disclose weight average degree of polymerization of the hydrophobic or polar segments.

Pappas discloses block copolymers comprising an oil-soluble (hydrophobic) segment and a polar segment (see Abstract). The block copolymer is prepared by block polymerization of a first acrylic comonomer A, and a second nitrogen-containing comonomer B (Col. 3/L. 5-10). Comonomer A is selected from acrylates having the formula:



wherein R is hydrogen or a C₁ to C₄ alkyl group and R¹ is a C₈ to C₂₂ alkyl group. Comonomer A overlaps with Formula (II) of claim 1 R of comonomer A is hydrogen and so are R⁵ and R⁶ in formula (II) of claim1 and R⁴ is an alkyl radical having from 6 to 30 carbon atoms (which overlaps with R¹ is a C₈ to C₂₂ alkyl group).

Comonomer B is selected from a group of nitrogen-containing monomers, preferably from acrylic compounds having the formula:



wherein R is as above, X is oxygen or an -NR- group, n is a whole number from 2 to 5, and R^2 and R^3 are each C_1 to C_{12} alkyl group (Col. 3/L. 36-51).

The block polymers of Pappas comprise from about 99.75 to about 90 mole percent of comonomer A units and from about 0.25 to about 10 mole percent of comonomer B, preferably having a molar ratio of A to B between 99:1 to 95:5. Based on the molar ratio and on the molecular weight of an example of comonomer A (2-ethylhexyl methacrylate) being about 198 g/mol and the molecular weight of an example of comonomer B (diethylaminopropyl methacrylamide) being about 200 g/mol, there are overlapping ranges for components (b) of claim 1 with comonomer A (from 50 to 100 wt%) and the polar segment of claim 1 with comonomer B.

The block copolymers of Pappas can be used in lubricating oils (base oil as recited in claim 1), wherein the block copolymer have dispersant regions absorb sludge thereby reducing friction (Col. 5/L. 34-45).

Comonomers A (polar segment D as recited in claim 11) and comonomer B (hydrophobic segment P as recited in claim 10) have an average number of monomeric units in the polymer from about 100 to 3,000 (Col. 4/L. 21-33). Based on the disclosed degree of polymerization and the molecular weight for comonomers A and B as discussed above there is an overlap between the ranges recited and the weight-average degree of polymerization in Pappas. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the weight ratio of hydrophobic to polar segments with the designated weight average degree of polymerization in order

to achieve a desired molecular weight of the copolymer resulting in sought after physical properties.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mishra in view of Nesvadba et al., US patent Application Publication No. 2004/0242813 (hereinafter referred to as Nesvadba).

Mishra discloses polymerizing the monomers via anionic polymerization via the use of initiators and catalysts that are present in inert environments wherein the temperature useful in producing the copolymers is between -78°C and about 30°C. Mishra, however, does not disclose polymerization by means of initiators which have a transferable atom group and one or more catalysts having a transition metal in the presence of ligands.

Nesvadba discloses a process for preparing polymers by anionic controlled radical polymerization in the presence of an initiator with a transferable atom group and a transition metal complex catalyst which is complexed and counterbalanced by anionic ligands in an inert solvent thereby forming two segments (Claim 1 of Nesvadba and Para. [0161]-[0162]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the process for preparing polymers disclosed in Nesvadba in preparing the polymers of Mishra in order to ensure that the polymers have narrow polydispersity and controlled physical properties (Para. [0001] of Nesvadba).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mishra in view of Benicewicz et al., US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0060577 (hereinafter referred to as Benicewicz).

Mishra discloses polymerizing the monomers via anionic polymerization via the use of initiators and catalysts that are present in inert environments wherein the molecular weight distribution is controlled. Mishra, however, does not explicitly disclose polymerizing monomer compositions in a lubricant oil in the presence of dithiocarboxylic ester.

Benicewicz discloses a free radical polymerization process comprising combining at least one monomer polymerizable by free radicals and at least one transition metal superoxide and a molecular weight controlling agent such as dithiocarboxylic ester (Para. [0007]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use dithiocarboxylic ester in the composition of Mishra in order to control the molecular weight of the polymer.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicants' arguments filed on 1/30/2009 with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Based on the amendments to the claims as discussed above the prior 35 USC 103 rejections have been withdrawn and therefore arguments regarding those combinations are hereby moot.

Mishra discloses a block copolymer produced at low temperatures via anionic polymerization in the presence of initiators and catalysts wherein a narrow molecular weight distribution is desired. The block copolymer composition of Mishra is obtained by monomers which read on formulas (I)-(III).

Conclusion

10. Applicants' amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicants are reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VISHAL VASISTH whose telephone number is (571)270-3716. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 8:30a-5:30p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on (571)272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ellen M McAvoy/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

VVV